



Rhode Island Emergency Management Advisory Council Minutes

THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON:

December 20, 2006

2:00 PM

The Rhode Island Emergency Management Headquarters
645 New London Ave. – Cranston, RI
Classroom A

I. Call to Order/ Attendance

Chairman Fogarty called the meeting to order at 2:20 p.m. In attendance were:

Lt. Governor Charles J. Fogarty, Chairman
MG Robert Bray, RI National Guard, Vice Chair
Robert Warren, Director, RIEMA
Christopher R. Albert, Office of Lt. Governor
Ray LaBelle, E911
Al Araujo, Pawtucket EMA
Geroge Farrell, State Fire Marshal
Lt. David Hayden, RISP
L. Anthony Cirillo, MD, HEALTH
Thomas Kilday, HEALTH
Leo Kennedy, Cranston Fire Dept.
James Lanni, RIPUC
Janice McClanaghan, RIOER
Howard Boksenbaum, RIDoIT
Chief J. David Smith, Narragansett PD.
Leo Messier, Providence EMA
Elizabeth Roberts, Lt. Governor-Elect
Amanda Milkovitz, Providence Journal

Jean Marie Rocha, HARI
Dawn Lewis, HARI
Lori Needham, RI Broadcasters Assoc.
Mike McDonough, TSA/ Rail, Boston
Tom Walsh, TSA Rail, Boston
Nancy Smith Greer, HUD
Steven J. Kennedy, NUWC
Richard R. Blott, Cong. Langevin's Office
David H. Leonard, RIEMA
Kim McLeod, RIEMA
Peter Popko, USCG
Robert Thorn, TSA
Tom McMillan, Exeter EMA
Richard Brown, East Providence
Jeff Milner, RI-Saturn
James J. Cotter, Narragansett Fire/EMA
Diana L. Arcand, RIEMA

II. Approval of the minutes from October 17, 2006

The Chairman requested approval of the minutes of the previous meeting from October 17th pending any corrections. The minutes were approved.

III. Introduction

A. Comments from the Chairman, Lt. Governor Charles J. Fogarty

Chairman Fogarty announced that this would be his last meeting as Chairman of the Council and took the opportunity to thank all members, partner agencies, state and local government officials, and private sector individuals for all of their involvement in making sure that our state is as prepared as possible to deal with emergencies.

B. Comments from the Vice Chairman, MG Robert Bray

MG Bray outlined several key issues that will be facing emergency preparedness in the coming year including:

- continuing the interoperable communications planning
- continuing to train on the National Incident Management System
- continuing regional planning efforts
- working to build a suitable Emergency Operations Headquarters
- work towards continuing federal funding for homeland security.

IV. Introduction of Lt. Governor-Elect and new EMAC Chairperson Elizabeth Roberts

Chairman Fogarty introduced incoming Lt. Governor and EMAC Chairperson Elizabeth Roberts. Lt. Governor-Elect Roberts addressed the Council stating that she was looking forward to working with the council members as Chair of the EMAC.

V. Interoperable Communications Update - Howard Boksenbaum, RIDoIT

Howard Boksenbaum and Chief Smith of Narragansett presented an update on the 800 MHz interoperable communications system. Mr. Boksenbaum reminded the group that this project began as a plan to provide interoperable communications in South County and has expanded to the East Bay and North to Providence. Last week the northern and southern system was upgraded with a new operating system which allows the two systems to be connected. This provides coverage for most of Rhode Island. Mr. Boksenbaum stated that the priority going forward is equipping all municipalities, first responders, emergency services, hospitals and fire services with radios. A further challenge is to upgrade older systems and develop a truly unified communications system.

Mr. Boksenbaum stated that the Communications Working Group created a data network which goes to every municipality, state agency and school in the state which offers another redundant interoperable communications system.

Chief Smith added that he has worked with TSA and with RI Airport Corporation Police Dept. and they will be added to the statewide system. Chief Smith also stated that a cabinet level talk group should be operational after January 1, 2007.

Chairman Fogarty asked Mr. Boksenbaum about security of state internet systems and asked that the issue be a possible topic for a future EMAC meeting.

Mr. Boksenbaum stated that the state has been taking a number of steps including the addition of a Chief Information Security Officer, Ernie Quaglieri.

Jeff Kelly of the RI Harbormasters Association raised concerns about communications the harbormasters faced during the Motiva Fire and requested that the Harbormasters Association be included in the interoperable communications effort.

Chief Smith stated that there is a communications system in place and asked that the RI Harbormasters Association contact Chief Smith and EMA to work to become part of the network. Director Warren also stated that the Homeland Security Grant cycle is currently open and encouraged the Harbormasters to work with local communities and EMA to write equipment into the grant for interoperable communications.

General Bray stated that in addition to the equipment, a priority is to also develop an operating construct that brings it all together.

Howard Boksenbaum added that the communications working group would be happy to assist in development of the operating construct.

VI. Homeland Security Report - MG Robert Bray

General Bray stated that he covered most of the Homeland Security Report in his opening remarks and expressed that the major concerns he is working with the Federal Partners with is the federal grant process, communication interoperability, and the effective gathering and dissemination of intelligence information.

VII. Domestic Preparedness Subcommittee Report – Robert Warren, RIEMA

Director Warren stated that the Domestic Preparedness Subcommittee last met on December 12th and the working groups continue to meet. Minutes for the Domestic Preparedness Subcommittee can be found on the Secretary of State's website.

VIII. Energy Update – Janice McClanaghan, RI Energy Office

Janice McClanaghan presented an energy update to the council.

	<i>Oct. 19th</i>	<i>1 Week ago</i>	<i>1 Yr. ago</i>
Crude Oil	\$63.06	\$61.08	\$57.31
Natural Gas	\$6.27	\$6.93	\$13.73

Ms. McClanaghan reported that the Emergency Fuel Program phone bank is open and has received 1957 deliveries in 7 weeks.

Prices:

	<i>This Week</i>	<i>Last Week</i>	<i>Last Year</i>	
Reg. unleaded				
Self Serve	\$2.36	\$2.31	\$2.20	+.16
Reg. Unleaded				
Full Serve	\$2.49	\$2.48	\$2.30	+.19
Home Heating Oil	\$2.42	\$2.44	\$2.43	-1
Diesel	\$2.87	\$2.77	\$2.68	+19

Ms. McClanaghan updated the council on LIHEAP.

- This year 19488 in system
- 2006 total 23,186 being worked on or appointments
- Last year 18,382 in system
- 2005 total 22,079 being worked on or appointments.

- 2000 households gas and electric have been restored with Crisis Program.

Ms. McClanaghan also announced that this would be her last EMAC meeting and that she will be retiring from State Service. Lt. Governor Fogarty, MG Bray, and Director Warren presented Ms. McClanaghan with a citation and thanked her for her service to the Council.

IX. New Business/ Member Comments and/or Suggestions

Dr. Cirillo gave an update on Pandemic Flu planning stating that HEALTH , DEM and partners are continually planning to deal with a pandemic flu outbreak. Dr. Cirillo also demonstrated the new web-based Hospital Capacity System.

Lori Needham from the Broadcasters Association updated the council on the new system for announcing and coordinating cancellations and delays.

Lt. Hayden gave an Amber Alert Update.

DEM reported that the agency has purchased fire fighting foam concentrate using OSPAR funds.

TSA gave an update on rail and airport issues and preparations for holiday travel.

George Farrell the RI State Fire Marshall announced that the Fire Marshals office will be moving to the Cranston Armory by May.

John Holt from American Red Cross of Rhode Island raised the concern that the lack of charitable giving this year may affect the way that Red Cross and Salvation Army provide services. Mr. Holt also expressed concern that new regulations regarding increased standards for background checks for volunteers may cause the number of volunteers to drop.

Ray LaBelle gave an update on E911's negotiations with On-Star calls where all calls 1st degree will be forwarded to E911 and dispatched locally.

Peter Popko announced that the Tall Ships 2007 has been designated as a marine event of national significance. This offers a great opportunity to test out communications and methodologies in a real time exercise.

X. Adjournment

With no further business to come before the council, Chairman Fogarty adjourned the meeting at 3:35 p.m.